

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 05778 162242Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /056 W  
----- 034763 /60

O 162224Z DEC 76  
FM AMBBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1843  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 5778

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, NU  
SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRIEST EXPELLED FROM NICARAGUA - CHAPTER TWO

REF: (A) MANAGUA 3128, (B) MEMCON OF 12/16/76

1. FATHER GARY THOMAS BERTRAND, ALSO KNOWN AS EVARISTO BERTRAND, THE AMERICAN CAPUCHIN PRIEST WHOM THE GON HAS ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND HAD DECLARED NO LONGER WELCOME IN NICARAGUA, WAS PICKUP ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 14, FOUR DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF HIS 30-DAY TOURIST PERMIT, ESCORTED TO THE BORDER AT LAS MANOS AND DEPOSITED ON THE HONDURAN SIDE OF THE FRONTIER. BERTRAND, WHO HAD BEEN OUT OF NICARAGUA IN JULY WHEN THE GON MADE THE DECISION TO DENY HIM REENTRY, WAS LET IN BY THE MISTAKE OF A BORDER POST IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL ON NOV 11, BUT THE NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES HOSE TO WAIT UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF HIS TOURIST PERMIT BEFORE EXPELLING HIM. GON EFFORTS THROUGH CHURCH CHANNELS TO PERSUADE BERTRAND TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY APPARENTLY FAILED.

2. FIVE CAPUCHIN PRIESTS VISITED EMB DEC 16 TO PROTEST TREATMENT OF FATHER BERTRAND AND INQUIRE ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS. EMBOFFS REVIEWED HIS CASE WITH CAPUCHINS AND TOLD THEM EMB HAD BEEN INFORMED BY GON THAT FATHER BERTRAND HAD BEEN RETURNED TO HONDURAS AT HIS  
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POINT OF ENTRY. (REF B MEMCON PUCHED 12/17/76.)

3. THE GON VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION TO THE EMBASSY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT BERTRAND HAD RETURNED TO NICARAGUA AND WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE WHEN HIS THIRTY-DAY TOURIST PERMIT EXPIRED. THE GON THEN INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT BERTRAND HAD BEEN PICKED UP AND

ESCORTED TO THE HONDURAN BORDER ON DECEMBER 14, FOUR DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF HIS ENTRY PERMIT. IN VIEW OF THE GON'S COOPERATION IN KEEPING EMBASSY CLOSELY INFORMED IN THIS MATTER, THE EMBASSY HAS NO REASOSN TO BELIEVE THAT BETWRAND IS ANY LONGER IN NICARAGUA.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT FURTHER INQUIRIES ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF BERTRAND BE DIRECTED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HONDURAS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WHICH MAY HAVE A RECORD OF BERTRAND'S ENTRY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPULSION, CLERGYMEN  
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**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cahillha  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MANAGU05778  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760463-0812  
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**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MANAGUA 3128  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cahillha  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 NOV 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; WITHDRAWN <28 OCT 2004 by coburnhl, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <02 NOV 2004 by cahillha>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by cahillha>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMERICAN PRIEST EXPELLED FROM NICARAGUA - CHAPTER TWO  
**TAGS:** SHUM, NU, US, (BERTRAND, GARY THOMAS), (BETRAND, EVARISTO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006